

From: Dave Blinder
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 1:18pm
Subject: Microsoft extending its reach

I believe that Microsoft's offer to present or donate their software to runs counter to the desired goal of the DOJ and the suit's intent.

In a scholastic environment, children are taught to use computers and software to enhance their learning experience and possibly better enable them to find employment as adults. This is a noble gesture by Microsoft but is unfortunately too self fulfilling and contrived. These children will help extend the Microsoft reach by placing them as many other into a computer user jail where they will become "Microsoft Centric" and only consider the very computer hardware they work on as an extension of the software it runs, Microsoft.

Giving schools Microsoft product will only result in the furthering of their monopoly. Instead, I suggest they donate the hardware to the schools allowing the schools to load what ever they wish to teach on the systems. Yes, they should donate some software too but there should be a fair mix where kids can have classes that focus on open source and enterprise applications for more advanced students.

Thank you for listening,

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